UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/CN.10/150
26 April 1991
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: CHINESE/ENGLISH

DISARMAMENT COMMISSION
1991 substantive session
New York, 22 April-13 May 1991
Agenda item 7

THE ROLE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE CONTEXT OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, DISARMAMENT AND OTHER RELATED FIELDS

Letter dated 25 April 1991 from the head of the Chinese delegation addressed to the Chairman of the Disarmament Commission

I have the honour to transmit to you a Working Paper entitled "China's principled position on the role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields". The Chinese text and its English translation are enclosed herewith.

I would be grateful if you could kindly arrange to have this text circulated as a document of the Disarmament Commission under item 7 on the agenda of this session.

(Signed) Hou Zhitong
Head of the Chinese delegation
to the 1991 session
of the Disarmament Commission

Annex

THE ROLE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE CONTEXT OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, DISARMAMENT AND OTHER RELATED FIELDS

China's principled position on the role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields

Working paper submitted by China

1. Scientific and technological achievements, as the common wealth of mankind, should be used to benefit mankind, promote economic and social development of all countries, and safeguard international peace and security.

2. Rapid advancement in modern science and technology has continued to create enormous material wealth for mankind and improve people's quality of life. However, the qualitative arms race based on high-tech has engulfed large amounts of human, material and financial resources which could otherwise have been used for economic and social development, thus seriously jeopardizing world peace and security.

3. The countries possessing the strongest military-related scientific and technological capacity and the largest military arsenals have devoted large amounts of financial resources to the research and development of military applications of science and technology and to military industry. They bear a special responsibility for halting the arms race in, inter alia, weapons of mass destruction and new weapon systems and should take the lead in adopting effective measures.

4. The sole purpose of military applications of science and technology should be to strengthen the necessary capability of self-defence. They should not be used for military intervention or aggression against other countries.

5. In view of the role of science and technology in the verification of arms control and disarmament and the disparity among different countries in the availability of scientific and technological verification means, technology sharing and extensive international exchanges and cooperation in this area should be carried out, so as to contribute to confidence-building among countries and international security and stability.

6. Measures on the restriction or control of military applications of science and technology should not jeopardize the development of science and technology for civilian purposes in various countries as well as international scientific and technological cooperation.

7. To check the arms race, particularly the qualitative arms race, realize nuclear and conventional disarmament, and prohibit space weapons and

chemical, biological and other weapons of mass destruction is the fundamental way to prevent the use of science and technology for destructive purposes and for the promotion of international security.

8. In view of the dual applicability nature, in many cases, of science and technology for both military and civilian purposes, efforts should be made to follow in a timely manner the character and direction of the latest various developments of science and technology, formulate a set of realistic and practical standards and guidelines for the technical assessment of emerging science and technology which may have possible military uses, so as to increase public understanding of the role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields and encourage all countries to appropriately restrict the military applications of science and technology. In this regard, the United Nations has an import role to play.